

#### Who are we?

Young Friends of the Earth are a voluntary organisation of people who recognise the need for an alternative vision for society which puts people and the natural environment at the core of political decision-making. The plan for Ireland in 2040 will affect the youth of today, and as our organisation is comprised mainly between those aged from 20 to 40 years old, we understand the need for planning which takes into consideration the needs of this demographic. We imagine an Ireland in 2040 where human and natural well-being are at the heart of local and national actions at all levels, and that these are what make economies flourish.

#### How will we meet our energy needs?

We believe that our country can thrive in an ecologically sustainable way, allowing us to prepare for the oncoming effects of climate change, mitigate its impact, while also meeting our energy needs.

Currently Ireland imports nearly 90% of its energy needs making it one of most import reliant countries in the EU. It requires the transformation of our energy sector from one predominantly based on imported fossil fuel to indigenous renewable energy. Peer reviewed studies state that Ireland can be transformed from its current energy system to be 100% renewable by 2050 while creating 100,000 extra jobs and not increasing the cost of energy. We can no longer afford to invest in any new fossil fuel infrastructure projects that lock us into a fossil fuel future. The new Iron Law of energy development is if you don't want it in your backyard, then it does not belong in anybody's backyard. We need to be brave and create a sunset policy for all fossil fuels in Ireland. There must be a recognition that there is no silver bullet in meeting our energy needs, it will take a suite of technologies to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050.

- 1. Solar Ireland has 80% the solar potential of Spain. This opportunity needs to be grasped if we as a country are to meet our 2050 targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (90% reduction from 2005 levels). Communities should be part of this process and given the agency to generate their own renewable energy for their homes via solar panels on the roofs of their homes, businesses, community centres etc. At present no financial incentive is given to individuals to install solar panels and on average it takes between 10 and 15 years to earn back the initial investment. Good planning would reduce this time and incentive solar by introducing a feed-in tariff for microgeneration of solar energy. A 2015 KPMG report on the solar industry in Ireland stated that for every one euro in policy support for the industry it will return three euro of gross added value to the economy.
- 2. Wind Ireland is uniquely positioned to harvest the potential of wind power. Whereas the majority of the supply is on the west coast and the majority of the demand is on the east coast, wind can still play a huge part in meeting clean and green energy needs. These are easily surmountable engineering issues. Each contribution towards energy independence provides communities with greater wealth, and therefore increased empowerment towards self determination, less ecological decay as well as emissions and intrinsic carbon. To increase the social acceptance of wind energy in Ireland a variety of ownership models should be encouraged. An example of this would be in Denmark where 20% of

all new wind farm developments have to be community owned. Public participation and early engagement for large scale energy projects should be made a statutory requirement at the preplanning stage .

- 3. Energy reduction This is some of the most "low hanging fruit". Engineers Ireland have stated that retrofitting homes and businesses in Ireland would go a long way to meeting our energy and carbon emission targets. It would also create more local jobs, for example replacing the work of those who currently work in the uneconomic, inefficient and unethical peat burning power stations. According to the SEAI, the public services have a 33% reduction in energy usage, which has not been met. There are a whole plethora of initiatives that the public sector could target, by aggressively ramping up retrofitting of public buildings, and replacing the transport fleets with electric vehicles. Carrying out such initiatives would not only help Ireland get closer to our energy and carbon emission commitments, but the public sector could be a shining example here, leading the way for the domestic, transport, agriculture and industry sectors to follow.
- 4. Wave / Tidal Ireland is on the cutting edge of R&D with wave & tidal. We would encourage a continuation of such efforts and indeed an increase in funding. Ireland has the opportunity within this sector to become the 'Denmark of Ocean energy'. There is massive potential to not only develop further the R&D efforts currently taking place in Ireland, but to develop other related areas such as manufacture of such technology.
- 5. Bio energy Due to its massive advantages, growers ought to be encouraged to grow hemp. This is for its plethora of advantages across a multitude of applications, as well as a ecological and economical replacement for many current raw materials. Another interesting and worthwhile form of bioenergy is thoughtfully manufactured biochar, along with biogas and bio-oil in the process. These products are made from 'waste' biomass and, when done correctly, can result in a carbon negative life cycle.
- 6. **Bio Solar and Green roof** implementation to address Climate change mitigation and adaption, storm water management, sustainable drainage and improved water quality, biodiversity, air quality and amenities. Combining green infrastructure and ecosystems services to address resilience in flooding and town and city planning towards our climate change adaptation EU requirements. Bio Solar rooftops provide power and biodiversity combined solutions to meet EU Habitat directives in an era of rise in EU power price trends

That the government implement a national policy to ensure green roofs and bio-solar roofs are part of national planning in line with the EU Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem services strategy. Such a policy would address a range of environmental benefits including stormwater, climate change adaptation, biodiversity, temperature management with additional wellness and economic benefits to the community To undertake best practice guidance for relevant national government bodies and departments (Environment etc etc) to ensure that delivery is performance lead and to ensure that collaborate with the leading authorities in Europe to ensure that the criteria is ecologically lead, rather than by the construction industry.

7. **Prosumer & Micro for grid stability** - We are advocates of the successful example of prosumer (someone who both produces & consumes a product or service, e.g. buys and sells) & micro energy roll-out in South Dublin Co. Council, pioneered in partnership with M-Power, Micro Energy

Generation Association of Ireland, Siemens & Tallaght IT. Spreading this across the country will not only give Ireland a competitive advantage in European energy innovations, it will sustain national resilience against future energy market shocks <u>http://www.tallaghtsmartgrid.com/</u>

8. Rocket stove systems & other small scale, efficient, locally orientated solutions that help local and diverse businesses grow

## How will we get around?

- 1. National services Rail, light rail (LUAS) and Bus Public transport is inextricably linked to environmental sustainability. A full standard bus can take more than 50 cars off the road while a full train can take 600 cars off the road. We need to lower prices and expand services, and not allow the degradation of services to accor as a result of privatisation. A recent EPA report found that an estimated 380,000 people living in rural areas do not have access to the transport services they require.
- 2. Increase the walkability of cities The criteria for a walkable city are that the areas where people walk are safe, comfortable and interesting. Studies have shown that walking can support local shops and businesses, as pedestrians have the freedom to 'pop-in' to pick up goods. What's more, increasing the walkability of our cities would ease pressure on our health services as walking is one of the easiest and most effective exercises we can do to combat the problem of increasing levels of obesity in our country.
- 3. **Cycling** At present less than 2% of our transport budget goes to cycling, whereas the UN recommends that it is 20%. We need parking protected bike lanes, and segregated cycle lanes for our most congested areas. Cycling infrastructure is one the highest return investments a country can make. Study after study continues to pile up the evidence that increasing the uptake of utilitarian cycling increases air quality, has positive effects on all-cause mortality of a population, is easily accessible and therefore equitable, as well having a host of other co-benefits. The benefits are seen from rural cycleways to urban bike-shares and bicycle corridors. *"A bicycle path is a social statement that a person with a \$40 bicycle is as important as anyone with a \$40,000 car"* Enrique Peñalosa. True sustainability has ecological, social and economic elements. Cycling brings all of these strands together.

## **Economic Development**

Given the ecological and financial pressures we face with an ageing population, we must diversify our economic indicators beyond GDP. There is increasing evidence that 1) An economic model based on economic growth is unsustainable environmentally and economically and 2) That GDP is an inadequate measure of the real health of an economy and society. It fails to capture inequalities and social issues which negatively affect quality of life. We need to make a decision. Does the government's priority lie with maintaining an inadequate measure of progress (GDP), or with the provision of meaningful work and 'the good life' where people live. A number of initiatives will be key in this regard:

- 1. The introduction of a fairer welfare system, with some sort of 'living wage' payment to citizens combined with new age guidance and mentoring services. Studies have shown how this enhances national growth, particularly due to the will of beings to pursue their natural competency when given the hope.
- 2. An introduction of a more diverse national accounting system beyond GDP, taking into account happiness levels, social cohesion, access to essential services as well as quality of the natural environment.<sup>1</sup>
- 3. Fairer taxation policies, whereby small family run businesses do not end up paying more corporation tax than the world's largest companies, as is often currently the case

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As advocated by leading economists Josef Stiglitz et al <u>http://library.bsl.org.au/jspui/bitstream/1/1267/1/Measurement\_of\_economic\_performance\_and\_social\_progress.pdf</u>.

- 4. Introduction of 'alternative' economics modules and courses in schools and universities, focusing on issues such as environmental economics and degrowth
- 5. Investment in a 'big society fund' similar to that in the UK,<sup>2</sup> which will act as 'seed capital' for community based social enterprises and co operatives, that can help to tackle social exclusion and economic decline in rural areas. A positive example of the type of initiative which could be supported would be the Loughmore Tea Rooms, a community co operative in Co. Tipperary.<sup>3</sup>
- 6. Introduction of a 'Localism act' giving local authorities greater decision making powers and direct revenue raising potential to have a key role in deciding the future of services and policy in areas such as health, education, transport. A Localism Act,<sup>4</sup> modelled on that in Britain would give community groups legal powers to 'register an interest' in important assets such as shops and pubs, thereby giving them greater powers to keep these open should they go up for sale

### What jobs will we have?

Retrofitting homes to upgrade their energy rating, while also improving the health and wellbeing of our population, would provides thousands of jobs. Jobs in care must be available, particularly to care for our most vulnerable in an ageing society. Denmark operates a principle of community health care, whereby elderly or those who need care in their own homes are provided by a team of local care workers. Some of this is voluntary work and helps to build social cohesion and solidarity, as well as ensure that older people can stay in their homes for longer. Our health care system would benefit by allowing people to receive as much treatment and care in their own homes as possible, keeping them out of centralised and impersonal hospitals and medical centres. This model could be replicated for other needs such as child care. We need to empower communities and social entrepreneurs to find innovative ways to meet our growing social demands, particularly as we can expect greater financial pressures and uncertainties in the future. We must move away from a purely private or purely public model of care provision in order to meet our needs sustainably in the long run. We can also increase our public transport services in rural areas, providing increased employment to those in areas outside of our cities.

There is huge potential to create jobs and training opportunities in the emerging sharing economies. Initiatives such as <u>repair café's</u>, <u>tool libraries</u>, <u>aquaponics</u>, etc can provide much needed social and environmental services in communities, while also providing opportunities for individuals in communities to contribute positively to their local area. However, in areas where there are high rates of economic or social deprivation such initiatives will need direct financial support, in the form of grant aid, social investment or community share packages.

Central spaces & community centres generate economic activity. These could be combined with public service facilities such as local enterprise offices and / or community kitchens. Regional towns need to be targeted for sustainable enterprise incubation, particularly focusing on creating jobs which will be key to the low carbon transition, such as those in renewable energy and sustainable food production. The Centre for Renewable Energies and Sustainable Technologies (Co. Fermanagh)<sup>5</sup> and the Drumshanbo Food Hub<sup>6</sup> are excellent examples which could be replicated around Ireland. Irish communities could once again become famous for local indigenous enterprise, which has a strong social dimension. Instead of small towns being characterised by closed shops and declining job

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.bigsocietycapital.com/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://ruralcommunityretail.com/conference/mary-fogarty-and-maeve-ohair-loughmore-co-operative-shop-and-tea-rooms/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted;</u> The NGO Locality has done extensive work on the idea of 'localism'

http://locality.org.uk/our-work/policy/localism-act/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> http://thecrestproject.com/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> http://thefoodhub.com/

prospects, why not have them characterised as the front - lines of developing the solutions we will all need for a more prosperous and socially enriching low carbon future.

#### Communication

We need fast broadband in our rural communities in order for sufficient work to be available in those communities. With fast broadband available, students can study effectively in these towns and might not be forced to be part of the 'brain drain' that is pulling our youth away from rural areas and into our already congested cities. Furthermore, creating a different culture of work, where remote working was more acceptable would allow people to work, via high speed broadband from their homes, or from shared work spaces in regional towns. This would alleviate transport and housing pressure on our largest cities and potentially help to address other social care issues, such as child care.

#### **Public Participation Process**

We can learn from European examples in which citizen involvement could enhance the design process rather than slow it down. Community consultation is becoming replaced by community design faster than researchers can identify this revolutionary changing dynamic in rural and urban planning around the world. Communication method and decision making processes are key here. Smaller towns and cities around the world are only beginning to use methods such as Sociocracy, Nonviolent Communication and online democratic tools in order to facilitate, satisfy and concretise the complexity of mass participation. Let's not fall behind them.

The lifting of restrictions in citizen control of local natural resources has revolutionised environmental, economic and social community development in countries across the Global South. Some will pass us out sooner than expected. A mechanism for trust building between councils and citizens is necessary for local people to be empowered and utilised as contributors to Ireland's development, and even competitiveness if that still exists in 2040 policy.

## Environmental exemptions for home planning

Flexibility should be granted to homes that prioritise environmental solutions. Wales is the first country in the EU to allow special planning rules for low impact housing in rural areas. <u>http://lammas.org.uk/en/planning/</u>

Gotland municipality in Sweden passed a method of constructed wetland that purifies not only grey water, but also sewage.

#### Where will we live?

Suburban sprawl is degrading communities, increasing air pollution and clogging our transport networks. Planning for 2040 must include an emphasis on building upwards instead of outwards. Cities on the European continent have succeeded in making this model work. Clever use of smaller spaces could bring a whole new dimension to our cities.

At present we are still building on floodplains, areas which will inevitably be affected by rising sea levels by 2040. We must use our resources effectively and build only in areas where the habitation can be reliably sustained.

We need urban redesigns.

## **Public space**

The success of the Beta project can be seen all over Dublin. This should be re-introduced, allowing citizens to co-create their living space. Ireland has one of the highest rates of green spaces in Europe, however there are many small pockets of land which are not being utilized. We envision these spaces as areas for social engagement or to be used as community gardens. We could have 'pocket parks' (also known as a parkette, mini-park, vest-pocket park or vesty park), which are small parks accessible to the general public. Pocket parks are frequently created on a single vacant building lot or on small, irregular pieces of land are are seen frequently in Mexico City and San Francisco.

In France, a new 'gardening permit' or 'permis de végetaliser'<sup>7</sup> has been instated allowing people to plant public urban gardens, and we propose that a similar law is instated in Ireland.

Overall, we advocate a commons approach to conceptualisation for the provision and creation of public spaces. At the moment there is very much a 'them and us' mentality when it comes to public space. Parks, public squares or community gardens are often either authorised and managed almost exclusively by local authorities or are the preserve of for profit private enterprises. Instead of viewing our space and our cities as a dichotomy of public vs private space, we call on all our people to co-create our urban environment collectively, as a commons. This means normalising the collaboration between public, private and civic on urban improvement and design projects, such as cleaning up a derelict space, planting trees along a footpath, the provision of flower beds etc... Specific legislative measures could be introduced as a one stop shop authorising such collaborative urban improvement projects. A single legal form for these types of agreements would simplify the process of navigating the bureaucratic maze that can sometimes surround initiating these projects, thereby putting time - pressed members of the community off active citizenship. Such initiatives include the 'permis de végetaliser' mentioned above or the Bologna Regulation for the Care and Regeneration of the Urban Commons.<sup>8</sup>

## How do we plan for climate change?

- 1) Circular Economy
  - a) Instate a Deposit Return scheme for aluminium cans and plastic bottles. These have been successful everywhere that they have been introduced.
  - b) Open 'Repair cafés' such as the Remakery in Edinburgh. The benefit of this is threefold; More jobs as people will be trained to work in these repair shops, necessary skills will be kept alive rather than that essential sustainability knowledge dying out, we will consume less resources.
  - c) Implement citywide composting systems such as that in San Francisco
- 2) Reduce food waste
  - a) On average we throw away one third of the food we buy, equating to approx. €700 per year per Irish family. We as a small nation generate two tonnes of food waste every minute, yet one person in every eight go hungry, and land 200 times the size of Ireland is used to grow food that is just thrown away. We should instate city-wide composting schemes so that any food waste can be put back into our agricultural system. France has forbidden food waste in Supermarkets Ireland needs a similar scheme. We also need a brown bin for every home, and small brown bin 'caddies' for the inside of each home.

# Investment in housing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> http://inhabitat.com/paris-allows-anyone-to-plant-an-urban-garden-anywhere/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> http://commonstransition.org/tag/bologna-regulation-for-the-care-and-regeneration-of-the-urban-commons/

Every human should not simply have access to shelter, but the right to a home where they can live in unmolested peace and dignity. Buildings are one of our largest points of energy consumption. When one considers that 90+% of Ireland's buildings are 'old stock', it is therefore congruent with common sense that we need to invest in deep scale retrofit. This will serve our population in terms of (i) better indoor air quality (ii) warmer buildings & lower heating costs to alleviate fuel poverty (iii) contribute to greater energy independence and economic savings.

More importantly than deep retrofitting is the need to (i) utilise current supply (ii) create more housing. Ireland has seen an explosion in homelessness over the last few years. A recent report stated that there were nearly 70 empty homes for every 1 homeless person in Ireland. This supply needs to be utilised. The number of social housing units being built has decreased dramatically decade on decade since the 70s, when Ireland was in even worse economic dire straits. These actions need to be facilitated by strong tenant rights, landlord and rent controls as well as having government cease interference when the populace take affirmative action, such as peaceful occupation of NAMA buildings.

#### Water services

The United Nations "Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights" – UN Resolution 64/292, July 2010.

The provision of sufficient water and sanitation is an essential public service and a human right recognised by the United Nations. It should be freely available to all regardless of wealth or income. All citizens need clean drinking water and quality sanitation.

Constructed wetlands & grey water recycling are no brainers.

## Health and education infrastructure

With increased rates of suicide, obesity, physical and mental health issues, we can draw but one conclusion that in Ireland we have a problem. However our solution does not have to cost much and Education is key. A more holistic education in mental and physical health (diet, exercise, psychology, meditation etc.) are great preventatives and will serve future generations as well as taking a large strain off the current struggling health system. Environment also plays a huge role in this and we cannot ignore our indoor and outdoor air quality which seems to be correlated with rising respiratory disorders. Design of our cities, increasing green spaces and public space for community to talk, to play, to breath will also have great positive knock on effects on our quality of life and health.

Education must also take a more holistic approach from a young age introducing more topics that are relevant to the child's development. Encouraging art, music and craft and furthermore valuing their important role in society. More education in nature (ecology) and connecting with it (food production) is key to a basic education. Finally and most importantly we must educate our future generations on the self, their minds and how they work (their weaknesses and strengths) so that they may effectively cope with whatever the world will throw at them. We need to radically change our relationship to food to ensure that it is compatible with a socially just, sustainable and low carbon future. Currently far too much of our food production relies too heavily on fossil fuels. On average, 1 calorie of food requires 10 calories of fossil fuels to produce it. Our highly mechanised farming methods, export oriented production and long supply chains are not compatible with combatting climate change or peak oil. Also, our intensive farming methods, which use large amounts of artificial fertiliser and other inputs, is destroying our soils. If we continue this, we may find it difficult to feed ourselves by the end of the century. We must practice restorative agriculture, which can ensure that people can work the land sustainably for generations to come, while allowing wildlife to flourish. We must argue for more socially conscious world agricultural and trade policies which can ensure fair and equitable livelihoods for farmers across the globe, end subsidies which disproportionately benefit the already large and wealthy farms, and avoids the distortion of traditional farming practices and markets in the global south. The value we place on food is skewed too heavily towards food being a tradeable commodity, rather than a necessary public good vital for survival and good health, as well as having cultural and societal values attached to it, such as traditional recipes and the sharing of food. First and foremost food and agriculture should be seen as a public good, and its tradeable dimensions should be reduced as much as possible, ensuring that all citizens, regardless of their income levels have access to healthy food. Some steps towards achieving this we envisage are:

- 1. Creating a constitutional right to access to food
- 2. Diversify our farming policy and specifically prioritise organic farming as well as polycultural holdings, instead of continuing with our intensification of beef and dairy for export. Yes, as a global community we need to ensure we can meet rising demand for food by 2050, but we can do so in a way that actually can employ more people, in line with local eating and farming habits.
- 3. Legislate for a ban on below cost selling as this jeopardises farmers and producers' ability to make a fair living
- 4. Via local authorities, and in co operation with producers and local communities, provide for farmers markets (at least once weekly) in every town and community around the country

# **Just Transition Economy**

The global transition to a low carbon economy is now underway. Already in 2017, more Governments have passed climate related legislation in the past year than ever before. In 20 years time Ireland will be facing ever more stringent cuts to carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement and accompanying EU legislation.

As food security threatens the globe Ireland will have to scale back beef and milk production and support tillage and organic farming. Our economy will have to become more self-sufficient and products will have to be made onshore. Tax evasion or avoidance across the globe will be reduced as countries require massive public investment to deal with the onset of climate change. This will mean a reduction in jobs in the financial services in Ireland and work in more productive sectors of the economy such as food production, textiles, research and development, education, care-work, the

arts, journalism, voluntary and community sector, local authority jobs, clerical work, public jobs and health. Three day weekends, shorter work hours and expanding respect and protection for care-work in the economy such as parenting, elderly, education and childcare will have to be foregrounded to encourage de-growth, low carbon consumption and a more sustainable society. A universal basic income, correctly and justly implemented with a strong affordable cost-rental/housing sector is part of this economy.

Ireland will engage in what Naomi Klein calls 'Growing the Caring Economy, Shrinking the Careless One' - this necessitates not only an economy based on low-carbon jobs - but protecting people working in the high-carbon economy and ensuring their needs and concerns are met.

The term "Just Transition" in the Preamble of the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement recognizes that workers are at the interface between society and nature in the statement of recognition for: "the imperative of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities". Past economic transitions, such as moving from post-war consensus to deregulation under Margaret Thatcher, resulted in the devastation of communities and worker's rights. Those in poverty have the most to lose when it comes to climate change: their health, their safety and in the inevitable shift to a low carbon economy their jobs will be the first to go.

This issue of 'just transition' will become ever more important as more and more communities face being left behind in the transition to a low-carbon economy. Resentment and anger will build and social cohesion and progress threatened.

To avoid this, a just transition for all towards an environmentally sustainable economy needs to be well managed and contribute to the goals of decent work for all, social inclusion and the eradication of poverty.

In our view, a stakeholder approach to climate change policy response, where all views are considered and where policies are designed and implemented with the participation and agreement of workers and employers, the Government, and civil society actors, follows a more transparent and comprehensive process. This process results in a more informed policy response, providing greater benefit to society at large

Policy-Framing - How do we transition in 20 years?

Climate justice stems from the UNFCCC core principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities' on climate mitigation and adaptation. This principle applies within countries as much as it does between them and is included in the Climate Change and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.

Creating strong, measurable aims for climate justice as well as accountability for failure to uphold best practice is a difficult and unwieldy matter for policy-makers. In order to ensure compliance with legislative and international treaty obligations, Young Friends of the Earth recommends incorporating human rights targets into mitigation and adaptation frameworks as demonstrated by SDG goals 8 and 16. This will ensure a clear framework to minimize suffering and ensure the integration of economic, social and environmental policies. Policies that can guide a 'climate-just' 'just transition' include the following from the ILO:

- 1. Sound investments in low-emission and job-rich sectors and technologies. These investments must be undertaken through due consultation with all those affected, respecting human and labour rights, and Decent Work principles.
- 2. Social dialogue and democratic consultation of social partners (trade unions, farmers and employers) and other stakeholders (i.e. communities).
- 3. Research and early assessment of the social and employment impacts of climate policies. Training and skills development, which are key to support the deployment of new technologies and foster industrial change.
- 4. Social protection, along with active labour and farming markets policies.
- 5. Local economic diversification plans that support decent work and provide community stability in the transition. Communities should not be left on their own to manage the impacts of the transition as this will not lead to a fair distribution of costs and benefits.

## Vision

More aware and immersed in it's own heritage and culture but not to have it forced. Irish Language to become a norm and the education of it to be focused more so on conversational level of the language rather than written in order for people to be more encouraged to embrace it. Ireland will be a neutral and progressively helpful country that stays loyal to its own values. There will be more of a focus on nature and the environment, for example more development of the safety of national parks, more national parks and national parks that are situated at sea. We will invest in

community and youth projects that bring people together to collaborate in an intergenerational way. Embracing and funding old and new traditions and festivals that bring people together. Individual Council housing estates that run on their own power grid gaining energy from wind/hydro/solar energy as all houses are fitted with solar tiles, solar roadways and a small wind farm near the estate powering it. The design of the houses should be inspired by Irish culture and heritage, e.g similar to thatch cottages and the likes. Individual houses should have a space in the garden for a greenhouse and to plant vegetables or there should be community gardens which bring communities together to grow and produce vegetables for themselves.

Thank You for taking the time to read our submission.